

IN THE CLAIMS

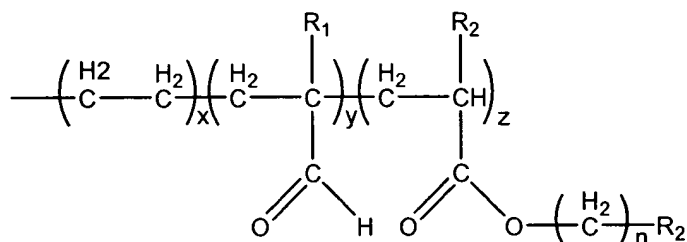
1. – 27. (Canceled)
28. (Previously Presented) A golf ball comprising:
a core comprising polybutadiene and substantially free of organic sulfide;
an inner cover having at least one layer comprising a material having a first Shore D hardness formed over the core and comprising at least two thermoplastic materials, each neutralized with a different metal cation, and wherein the inner cover is substantially free of metallocene-catalyzed polymer; and
an outer cover having at least one layer comprising a polymer blend having a second Shore D hardness less than the first Shore D hardness, disposed about the inner cover, wherein the polymer blend comprises at least one grafted metallocene-catalyzed polymer, a non-ionomeric material comprising an acid-containing ethylene copolymer, and at least two ionomer resins, each neutralized with a different metal cation.
29. (Original) The golf ball of claim 28, wherein the polymer blend comprises about 30 percent by weight of greater of the at least one grafted metallocene-catalyzed polymer.
30. (Original) The golf ball of claim 28, wherein the at least one grafted metallocene-catalyzed polymer has been functionalized by grafting an ethylenically-unsaturated monomer onto the at least one metallocene-catalyzed polymer using a post-polymerization reaction.
31. (Original) The golf ball of claim 28, wherein the core is fluid-filled.
32. (Original) The golf ball of claim 28, wherein the golf ball further comprises at least one intermediate layer between the core and the inner cover layer.
33. (Original) The golf ball of claim 32, wherein the intermediate layer is a tensioned elastomeric layer.

34. (Canceled)
35. (Currently Amended) A golf ball comprising a core, a layer disposed about the core, and a cover, wherein at least one of the core, the layer, or the cover is formed of a blend comprising:
- at least one ionomer;
 - at least one grafted metallocene-catalyzed polymer; and
 - at least one non-ionomeric material comprising an acid-containing ethylene copolymer.
36. (Previously Presented) The golf ball of claim 35, wherein the blend is present in the cover.
37. (Previously Presented) The golf ball of claim 36, wherein the layer comprises at least one ionomer.
38. (Previously Presented) The golf ball of claim 37, wherein the layer is substantially free of metallocene-catalyzed polymer.
39. (Currently Amended) The golf ball of claim 35, wherein the at least one ionomer is present in an amount of about 99 to about 25 parts per hundred of the blend, wherein the at least one grafted metallocene-catalyzed polymer blend is present in an amount of about 1 to about 75 parts per hundred of the blend, and wherein the at least one ~~non-ionomer~~ non-ionomeric material is present in an amount of about 1 to about 70 parts per hundred of the blend.
40. (Currently Amended) The golf ball of claim 39, wherein the at least one ionomer is present in an amount of about 90 to about 70 parts per hundred of the blend, wherein the at least one grafted metallocene-catalyzed polymer blend is present in an amount of about 10 to about 30 parts per hundred of the blend, and wherein the at least one ~~non-ionomer~~ non-ionomeric material is present in an amount of about 1 to about 20 parts per hundred of the blend.

41. (Previously Presented) The golf ball of claim 35, wherein the layer has a hardness from about 65 Shore D to 80 Shore D and the cover has a second hardness is about 45 Shore D to 60 Shore D.

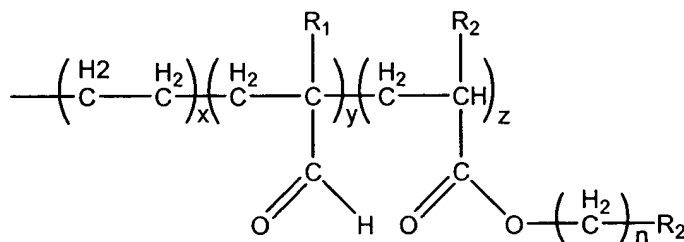
Please add the following new claims:

42. (New) The golf ball of claim 28, wherein the acid-containing ethylene copolymer comprises a copolymer represented by the following structure:



where x = 50 to 99 percent, y = 1 to 50 percent, z = 0 to 49 percent, R₁ is H or CH₃, R₂ is an alkyl group, and n ranges from 0 to 12.

43. (New) The golf ball of claim 41, wherein the acid-containing ethylene copolymer comprises about 10 to about 15 percent methacrylic acid.
44. (New) The golf ball of claim 35, wherein the acid-containing ethylene copolymer comprises a copolymer represented by the following structure:



where x = 50 to 99 percent, y = 1 to 50 percent, z = 0 to 49 percent, R₁ is H or CH₃, R₂ is an alkyl group, and n ranges from 0 to 12.

45. (New) The golf ball of claim 43, wherein the acid-containing ethylene copolymer comprises about 10 to about 15 percent methacrylic acid.